

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
HA-05 /066 W
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R 181551Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8052
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SREF, US, UR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOVIET BAPTISTS TO THE UNITED STATES

REFS: (A) STATE 35215, (B) MOSCOW A-39

1. CONSOFF HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY SOVIET BAPTISTS WITH ILYA ORLOV, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 17. ORLOV, WHO TOOK PART IN THE TRIP, FELT THAT THE DELEGATION'S DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESSMAN AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL. HE ESPECIALLY FELT THAT THE SMALL DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO COUNTER THE ANTI-SOVIE AGITATION

GENERATED BY MORE CONSERVATIVE PROTESTANT FUNDAMENTALIST SECTS.

2. ORLOV STATED THAT THE GROUP HAD LEFT AN INVITATION FOR REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION, NOTING THE BAPTISTS' INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING THEIR LIAISON WITH AMERICAN FUNDAMENTALIST GROUPS. INVITATIONS WERE ALSO LEFT WITH INFLUENTIAL BAPTISTS AND "PENTECOSTAL" CLERGYMAN IN TULSA,
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DALLAS, AND CHICAGO.

3. COMMENT: ORLOV MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GROUP HAD CLOSELY HEWED TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL POLICY AND THAT IT HAD BEEN WELL BRIEFED BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND ESCORTED BY SOVIET EMBOFFS AND "JOURNALISTS". WHILE HE WAS UNCLEAR IF THE DELEGATION SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED THE EMIGRA-

TION OF SOVIET CHRISTIANS, THE SOVIETS CERTAINLY DID EMPHA-
SIZE HOW FREELY SOVIET CHRISTIANS WORSHIP IN AN ATTEMPT TO
DISCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR EMIGRATION AMONG AMERICAN PROTESTANTS.
END COMMENT.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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